

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, RO

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: BUCHAREST 2435

1. ACCORDING TO COLUMBIA HISTORY PROFESSOR ISTVAN DEAK, DEMONSTRATION AIMED AT VISITING ROMANIAN HISTORIANS (ESPECIALLY PASCU AND GIURESCU, WHOSE VIEWS ON HISTORY OF TRANSYLVANIA ARE ESPECIALLY OFFENSIVE TO HUNGARIANS) TOOK PLACE MARCH 31, NOT APRIL 1, AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY. DEAK SAID DEMONSTRATORS NUMBERED ABOUT 270, MOSTLY HUNGARIAN-AMERICANS, AND WERE PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY. POLICE KEPT DEMONSTRATORS AWAY FROM ENTRANCE TO CAMPUS, BUT SIGNS THEY WERE CARRYING WOULD HAVE BEEN VISIBLE TO ANYONE USING MAIN ENTRANCE. (ACCORDING TO ANOTHER SOURCE, MOST OFFENSIVE SIGN WAS PICTURE OF PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU LA-
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BELLED "DRACULA LIVES.")

2. SYMPOSIUM TOOK PLACE ON 15TH FLOOR, WHERE NOISE FROM DEMONSTRATION WAS ONLY VAGUELY AUDIBLE. DEAK SAID HE HAD MET WITH DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZER LASZLO HAMOS BEFORE EVENT AND ASKED HIM TO KEEP NOISE DOWN, BUT APPARENTLY HAMOS WAS UNABLE TO ENFORCE THIS AGREEMENT WITH OTHER PARTICI-

PANTS, AT LEAST ONE OF WHOM WAS USING BULLHORN. HAMOS APOLOGIZED TO DEAK FOR THIS AFTERWARD.

3. AFTER DEMONSTRATION ON STREET LEVEL BROKE UP, SOME PARTICIPANTS ENTERED CAMPUS AND ATTENDED SYMPOSIUM. THOSE WHO ATTEMPTED TO DISTRIBUTE PAMPHLETS WERE ASKED TO DESIST AND PROMPTLY DID SO. DEAK GAVE WHAT HE AND OTHER SOURCES HAVE CALLED A "STRONG" SPEECH ASKING FOR PARTICIPANTS IN SYMPOSIUM TO ABIDE BY RULES OF DECORUM AND RESPECT PRINCIPLES OF SCHOLARLY EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS. THIS WAS WELL RECEIVED AND SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDED IN ORDERLY FASHION. THERE WERE OF COURSE QUESTIONS FROM AUDIENCE DISPUTING ROMANIAN INTERPRETATION OF HISTORY OF TRANSYLVANIA AND CRITICIZING PRESENT TREATMENT OF HUNGARIAN MINORITY, BUT ACCORDING TO DEAK THIS DIALOGUE REMAINED WITHIN BOUNDS OF ACADEMIC DISCOURSE, SOME OF IT HIGHLY TECHNICAL.

4. DEAK COMMENTED THAT ROMANIANS IN DELEGATION DID NOT SEEM UPSET BY DEMONSTRATION AND QUESTIONING. WHAT UPSET DEAK AND CAMPUS SECURITY OFFICERS, HOWEVER, WAS OBSERVATION THAT AT LEAST THREE ROMANIAN "ESCORTS," JUDGING FROM TELLTALE BULGES UNDER THEIR JACKETS, WERE OBVIOUSLY CARRYING SIDEARMS. TO AVOID AN INCIDENT, NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO DISARM THEM, BUT AS MINIMUM ROMANIANS SHOULD HAVE NOTIFIED US SECURITY OFFICIALS IN ADVANCE THAT ESCORTS WOULD BE ARMED. FOR TIME BEING, HOWEVER, WE DO NOT INTEND TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH ROMANIAN EMBASSY.

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5. SO FAR WE HAVE NO HARD INFORMATION ON DEMONSTRATIONS ELSEWHERE.
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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